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ABSTRACT

Papers on the publication of library journal literature--from the 1982 International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) conference--are presented, including: (1) "The Coverage of Library/Information Science Periodicals from Developing Countries by the Major Abstracting and Indexing Services," a report by Barbara J. Buckley on the quantitative and qualitative coverage of this literature by "Bulletin Signaletique," "Library and Information Science Abstracts (LISA)," "Library Literature," and "Referativnyi Zhurnal," with an analysis of how journal geographic origin (France, Great Britain, United States, and U.S.S.R.), language of publication, and provision of original abstracts affect abstracting and indexing coverage; and (2) "The Life, Death and Resurrection of a Journal" by E. Bejide Bankole, which proposes a study of successful and unsuccessful journal publication ventures, provides a draft questionnaire for such a study, and discusses possible reasons for journal failure. (ESR)

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INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

ROUND TABLE OF EDITORS OF LIBRARY JOURNALS

PAPERS

IR 050 207

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réseaux
48e conférence générale de l'IFLA – Montréal
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ROUND TABLE OF EDITORS OF LIBRARY JOURNALS

THE COVERAGE OF LIBRARY/INFORMATION SCIENCE PERIODICALS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BY THE MAJOR ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING SERVICES

BY

BARBARA J. BUCKLEY, CERT. ED., B.L.S., A.L.A.
INDEXER: LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE ABSTRACTS

meeting
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Introduction

This report continues on from a study undertaken by Mr. Nicholas L. Moore, Editor of Library and Information Science Abstracts, whose findings were presented at the 1980 and 1981 meetings of the IFLA Round Table of Editors in Manila and Leipzig.

There has been a feeling that librarianship journals published by developing countries have been relatively poorly covered by the indexing and abstracting services of the industrialised world in comparison with other countries. This has led to authors from the third world attempting to get their work published in the journals of the developed world so that it stands a greater chance of being picked up by the secondary services and therefore a greater chance of being read and recognised by the profession throughout the world.

This would mean that the editors in the developing countries, finding it difficult to attract the best national authors, and the best articles, would have problems in building up a wide readership to make their publication economically and commercially viable. As an example of this, an editorial from one of the primary journals covered by this survey included a plea for articles from colleagues so that another issue could be produced sometime!

There are other problems for the publishers of course which do not affect the developed countries, or not to the same extent, such as obtaining paper and print. This is an area for further research. It is interesting that, almost without exception, librarianship journals from the third world are produced by library associations, library schools and similar bodies, not by publishing companies. Could this mean that they are produced on a shoe-string budget without proper staffing?

This survey aims to show the actual coverage by indexing and abstracting services of the industrialised world of librarianship journals produced in the developing countries and hopefully to isolate factors which may help to improve the level of coverage. Moore's original survey was a purely quantitative one, showing which journals had been covered by which service. An attempt is made here to show how well they covered them and also to analyse the effects of the different geographic areas, different languages and original abstracts.

Library and Information Science Abstracts is most fortunate in having an arrangement for borrowing journals from the British Library Library Association Library, which was relied upon heavily for research for this project. Copies which are received free by LISA directly from the publisher are deposited in this library, which will be referred to for simplicity as the British Library.

Scope of coverage

For expediency, it was decided to use the same list of developing countries as that employed by Moore which was based on one produced by the World Bank, excluding Cyprus, Greece, Malta, Portugal, Spain and Yugoslavia but including the People's Republic of China.

The same criterion of excluding primary journals which publish only short news items was employed in principle, however, none of this type of publication was in fact covered by any of the secondary services.

It was not within the brief of this project to attempt to compile a complete list of librarianship journals produced in the developing countries.

Originally it was envisaged that the following secondary services would be scanned: Bulletin Signaletique. Section 101. Science de l'Information; Information Science Abstracts; Library and Information Science Abstracts; Library Literature; Referativnyi Zhurnal. Section 59. Informatica; and Computer and Control Abstracts. The first 5 of of these were included in Nick Moore's survey. Computer and Control Abstracts (UK) was dropped as it only picked up Herald of Library Science from the developing countries, while Indian Library Science Abstracts, Fachbibliographischer Dienst Bibliotheksiwesen (West Germany), Informationdienst Bibliotheksiwesen (East Germany) and CALL - Current Awareness Library Literature (USA) were not available for recent years. Information Science Abstracts recently ceased publication but has been taken over by the Plenum Publishing Corporation of New York to be run on a commercial basis. The new editorial offices have been contacted with a view to finding out what the new editorial policy will be, the extent of coverage and the frequency of publication but a reply had not been received at the time of writing. Information Science Abstracts was not then included in this survey as the results would be of academic interest only and of no practical use. However, the new publication, when it appears, could be included in any future study.

The abstracting/indexing services which therefore were included in this survey were: Bulletin Signaletique (BS) from France; Library and Information Science Abstracts (LISA) from Great Britain; Library Literature (LL), the indexing service produced by the H.W.Wilson Company in New York, USA; and finally Referativnyi Zhurnal (RZ) from the USSR.

To obtain a more accurate picture of the coverage by these secondary services it was decided to isolate journal issues dated 1979 and see how they had been picked up by the 4 services by the end of 1979, 1980 and 1981. The year 1979 was picked as it was the most recent one for which journal issues could reasonably be expected to have been covered by the end of 1981 if they were going to be covered at all. By selecting one

Scope of coverage cont.

particular year there were bound to be some anomalies - journals not being published in that year, ceasing publication before that date or starting up after it. That would be the case whichever year was chosen, however, it was hoped that using this method would give a more accurate picture for comparison. As an example, it would be misleading to equate 2 secondary services' coverage of a particular title when one started to pick up the 1979 issues in 1980 whilst the other had picked up only pre-1977 material.

For information, a list has been appended of those journals for which no issues dated 1979 or later have been received by the British Library, which means that they are no longer covered by LISA but have not necessarily ceased publication. A list has also been appended of journals whose coverage by LISA has only just started, to give some idea of recent expansion of coverage of third world journals.

Methodology of survey

Bulletin Signaletique, Library Literature and Referativnyi Zhurnal were searched manually for the years 1979 to 1981 and Library and Information Science Abstracts was searched on-line via Lockheed DIALOG for 1979 up to issue 3 of 1981 and thereafter manually. It was not possible to search BS on-line through PASCAL as the search was undertaken by journal title and PASCAL does not have this facility.

Details were taken of each entry for articles from the relevant journals dated 1979 onwards. The average length of abstract for each journal in each secondary service (excluding LL which has no abstracts) was worked out by ranking each abstract on a scale of 1 to 3 and assigning the most common figure. For example, if the abstracts in BS for a particular primary journal were more often of medium length than short or long a ranking of 2 would be assigned.

Similarly, a grade of 1 to 3 was given to the level of completeness of bibliographic details provided by each secondary service: 3 for complete details; 2 for incomplete details but sufficient for location of the original article; and 1 for insufficient details to locate the original.

Finally, a grade of 1 to 3 was also allotted for the proportion of each journal that was covered by each abstracting/indexing service, with 3 for all articles, 2 for most major articles and 1 for occasional coverage.

It was decided not to make a qualitative judgment on the abstracts as the researcher's familiarity with the French and Russian languages was sketchy and employment with LISA may have made it difficult to be objective.

Methodology cont.

The data was evaluated to assess the quality and quantity of coverage by the secondary services and to see how the major geographic regions and the different languages of publication compared.

In addition, a questionnaire was sent out to all the editors of the primary journals that were picked up in this survey together with editors of some journals that had not been received recently by the British Library to see if they were still being published (see Appendix D). The aim of the questionnaire was to find out exactly which issues had been published and when, details of original abstracts, supply of copies to the secondary services, reprints and translations and details of local, national and international authorship and readership. This data was supplemented by scanning such issues of the primary journals as were available in the British Library.

Results

In Nick Moore's original survey he discovered that 58 journals from developing countries had been covered by 5 secondary services. Dropping Information Science Abstracts makes no difference to this figure, but applying the restriction of the 1979 date brings this figure down dramatically. From Table 1 it can be seen that only 2 journals, both from Israel, were picked up in 1979 - ISLIC Bulletin by Bulletin Signaletique and Yad La-Kore by Library and Information Science Abstracts. By the end of 1980 Table 2 shows that the picture had improved with 4 journals picked up by BS, 4 by LL, 1 by RZ and 20 by LISA, giving a total of 24 between them. By the end of 1981 (Table 3) the total number of journals picked up reached 33; BS had not picked up any more, LL had picked up another 2 to reach 6, RZ had picked up another 3 to reach 4 and LISA has picked up another 10 to reach a total of 30. This pattern can perhaps be seen more clearly in graphic form in Fig. 1.

Table 4, showing which journals dated 1980 had been picked up by the end of 1981, was drawn up as a comparison with Table 2 to see if there had been any improvement in coverage by the next year. Unfortunately the picture was not significantly different overall. BS increased its coverage from 4 to 6 titles whilst LISA dropped 1 going from 20 to 19 titles but still remaining well in front. LL also dropped 1 going from 4 to 3 titles but RZ picked up 2 extra to cover 5 titles.

These figures of course only show that at least 1 issue from 1979 (or 1980) had been picked up and not how much of those issues that were picked up were included in the abstracting/indexing service. Fig. 2 shows how many articles were picked up from issues published in 1979 by the end of 1979, 1980 amd 1981. (The same key has been used for this

Results cont.

and all other figures.) LISA was still in the lead for the quantity covered with a total of 230 articles picked up by 1981, however LL made up considerable ground as it indexed more articles and more issues than LISA when it covered a journal at all. BS too made up ground on LISA whilst RZ fell away. To some extent the reasons for the differences from Fig. 1 showing titles picked up were that BS and LL tended to cover journals with a greater than average number of articles whilst RZ tended to cover journals with fewer articles. Fig. 2 emphasises that most entries in RZ appeared 2 years after the date of publication but all BS entries appeared within 2 years.

When looking at these figures, it must be remembered that the date of publication on the journals may well not be the actual date that the journal appeared; this may have been some time later. Also, there could have been a considerable delay in journals reaching the editorial offices of the abstracting and indexing services. This is an area which warrants further investigation.

Qualitative coverage

Turning now to the quality rather than the quantity of coverage, Table 5 summarises the results. Each of the 4 secondary services has a standard format for bibliographic details. BS does not provide the month or season with the year of publication and neither does it include tables or illustrations. However it does have features which could usefully be adopted by other services: the language of any original abstracts provided with the article; the International Standard Serial Number where available (many journals from the developing countries do not yet have this); and details of the place of work of the author/s. LISA includes the standard issue, volume and page numbers and date with illustrations, tables, references and bibliographies. LL has the disadvantage of not providing issue numbers but does include charts and some illustrations. RZ, like BS, does not include specific dates but only the year of publication, with issue, volume and page numbers, and neither does it give illustrations, references or tables. Please forgive any inaccuracies in this information - put it down to insufficient familiarity with the languages!

Moving on to the length of abstracts, RZ came top of the rankings with the longest abstracts. LISA came second with short to medium length abstracts., although the subjective impression was gained that they tended to be shorter than the average abstract in that service. BS had the shortest abstracts - usually 1 or 2 sentences, which was in line with the length of its other abstracts. LL is of course an indexing service only but titles of articles were expanded in places to make the subject more obvious.

Table 1

1979 journals picked up in 1979

Journal Title	Country	BS	LISA	LL	RZ
Anambra/Imo States School Library Association Bulletin	Nigeria				
Baca	Indonesia				
Bendel Library Journal	Nigeria				
Bibliotecas y Archivos	Mexico				
Bibliotecologia y Documentacion	Argentina				
Botswana Library Association Journal	Botswana				
(Bulletin of Library Science)	People's Rep. of China				
Ciencia da Informacao	Brazil				
COMLA Newsletter	International				
Ekare	Venezuela				
Fiji Library Association Journal	Fiji				
Guyana Library Association Bul'etin	Guyana				
Herald of Library Science	India				
Indian Librarian	India				
Indian Library Association Bulletin	India				
ISLIC Bulletin	Israel	X			
Journal of Library and Information Science	India				
Journal of Library and Information Science	Taiwan				
Library Science with a Slant to Documentation	India				
MALA Bulletin	Malawi				
Message of the Library/Rissalat Al-Maktaba	Jordan				
Nigerbiblios	Nigeria				
Pakistan Library Bulletin	Pakistan				
Revista da Escola de Biblioteconomia da UFMG	Brazil				
Revista de Biblioteconomia de Brasilia	Brazil				
Revista Interamericana de Bibliotecologia	Colombia				
Rhodesian Librarian	Zimbabwe				
Singapore Book World	Singapore				
Singapore Libraries	Singapore				
Timeless Fellowship	India				
University of Nairobi. Library Magazine	Kenya				
Yad La-Kore/Reader's Aid	Israel	X			
Zambia Library Association Journal	Zambia				
Total 2		1	1	0	0

Table 2

1979 journals picked up by the end of 1980

Journal Title	Country	BS	LISA	LL	RZ
Anambra/Imo States School Library Association Bulletin	Nigeria		X		
Baca	Indonesia		X		
Bendel Library Journal	Nigeria		X		
Bibliotecas y Archivos	Mexico				
Bibliotecologia y Documentacion	Argentina				
Botswana Library Association Journal	Botswana		X		
(Bulletin of Library Science)	People's Rep. of China				
Ciencia da Informacao	Brazil	X			
COMLA Newsletter	International		X		
Ekare	Venezuela				
Fiji Library Association Journal	Fiji		X		
Guyana Library Association Bulletin	Guyana				
Herald of Library Science	India	X	X	X	
Indian Librarian	India		X		
Indian Library Association Bulletin	India		X		
ISLIC Bulletin	Israel	X			
Journal of Library and Information Science	India				
Journal of Library and Information Science	Taiwan		X	X	
Library Science with a Slant to Documentation	India	X		X	X
MALA Bulletin	Malawi		X		
Message of the Library/Rissalat Al-Maktaba	Jordan		X		
Nigerbiblios	Nigeria		X		
Pakistan Library Bulletin	Pakistan			X	
Revista da Escola de Biblioteconomia da UFMG	Brazil		X		
Revista de Biblioteconomia de Brasilia	Brazil		X		
Revista Interamericana de Bibliotecologia	Colombia				
Rhodesian Librarian	Zimbabwe				
Singapore Book World	Singapore		X		
Singapore Libraries	Singapore				
Timeless Fellowship	India		X		
University of Nairobi. Library Magazine	Kenya		X		
Yad La-Kore/Reader's Aid	Israel		X		
Zambia Library Association Journal	Zambia		X		
Total 24		4	20	4	1

Table 3

1979 journals picked up by the end of 1981

Journal Title	Country	BS	LISA	LL	RZ
Anambra/Imo States School Library Association Bulletin	Nigeria		X		
Baca	Indonesia		X		
Bendel Library Journal	Nigeria		X		
Bibliotecas y Archivos	Mexico				X
Bibliotecologia y Documentacion	Argentina		X		
Botswana Library Association Journal	Botswana		X		
(Bulletin of Library Science)	People's Rep. of China		X		
Ciencia da Informacao	Brazil	X	X		X
COMLA Newsletter	International		X		
Ekare	Venezuela		X		
Fiji Library Association Journal	Fiji		X		
Guyana Library Association Bulletin	Guyana		X		
Herald of Library Science	India	X	X	X	
Indian Librarian	India		X		
Indian Library Association Bulletin	India		X		
ISLIC Bulletin	Israel	X			
Journal of Library and Information Science	India		X		
Journal of Library and Information Science	Taiwan		X	X	
Library Science with a Slant to Documentation	India	X	X	X	X
MALA Bulletin	Malawi		X		
Message of the Library/Rissalat Al-Maktaba	Jordan		X		
Nigerbiblios	Nigeria		X		
Pakistan Library Bulletin	Pakistan		X	X	
Revista da Escola de Biblioteconomia da UFMG	Brazil		X	X	
Revista de Biblioteconomia de Brasilia	Brazil		X	X	
Revista Interamericana de Bibliotecologia	Colombia				X
Rhodesian Librarian	Zimbabwe		X		
Singapore Book World	Singapore		X		
Singapore Libraries	Singapore		X		
Timeless Fellowship	India		X		
University of Nairobi. Library Magazine	Kenya		X		
Yad La-Kore/Reader's Aid	Israel		X		
Zambia Library Association Journal	Zambia		X		
Total 33		4	30	6	4

Table 4

1980 journals picked up by the end of 1981

Journal Title	Country	BS	LISA	LL	RZ
Anambra/Imo States School Library Association Bulletin	Nigeria		X		
Bendel Library Journal	Nigeria		X		
Bibliotecas y Archivos	Mexico				X
(Bulletin of Library Science)	People's Rep. of China		X		
Ciencia da Informacao	Brazil	X			
COMLA Newsletter	International		X		
Ekare	Venezuela		X		
Fiji Library Association Journal	Fiji		X		
Herald of Library Science	India	X	X	X	X
IASLIC Bulletin	India	X			
Indian Librarian	India		X		
Indian Library Association Bulletin	India		X		
ISLIC Bulletin	Israel	X			
Journal of Library and Information Science	Taiwan	X	X	X	
Journal of the Hong Kong Library Association	Hong Kong		X		
Library Science with a Slant to Documentation	India	X		X	X
Lucknow Librarian	India		X		
Message of the Library/Rissalat Al-Maktaba	Jordan		X		
Pakistan Library Bulletin	Pakistan		X		
Revista AIBDA	Costa Rica		X		
Revista da Escola de Biblioteconomia da UFMG	Brazil		X		
Sierra Leone Library Journal	Sierra Leone		X		
University of Nairobi. Library Magazine	Kenya		X		
Zambia Library Association Journal	Zambia		X		
Total 24		6	19	5	3

Table 5

Quality of coverage

Secondary Services	Bibliographic Details	Quantity of Journals Covered	Abstract Length
Bulletin Signaletique	No month/season, tables or illustrations Includes: year, issue, volume and page nos, language of original abstracts, ISSNs, workplace of authors	Most major articles	Short
Library and Information Science Abstracts	Includes: complete date, issue, volume and page nos, illustrations, tables, references, bibliographies	Most major articles	Short to medium
Library Literature	No issue number Includes: complete date, volume and page numbers, charts, some illustrations	All major articles plus some shorter items	No abstracts but does amplify some titles for clarity of subject matter
Referativnyi Zhurnal	No month/season, illustrations, tables or refs Includes: year, volume, issue and page numbers	Most major articles	Medium to long

Qualitative coverage cont.

LL showed up well in comparison with the other 3 secondary services when looking at the amount of articles that it indexed from the primary journals. As a rule it picked up all major articles together with some shorter pieces while the other services covered most major articles only.

All services had problems in deciding which were surnames and which were forenames for some third world authors, which led to discrepancies.

To sum up, each service had its good and bad points. LISA covered by far the largest number of titles but LL picked up the most items in the journals that it covered. All but LISA lacked a vital element of bibliographic detail but BS compensated with other helpful information for researchers. Finally, RZ contained the fewest entries but had the most detailed abstracts.

Geographic areas

Let us now move on to how the journals from the different geographic areas were covered. Tables 6 and 7 give a breakdown for each secondary service whilst Fig.3 gives a consolidated picture. By the end of 1980 only journals from the Indian sub-continent dated 1979 had been covered by all 4 services, but Latin America joined it by the end of 1981. LISA was the only service to pick up journals from Africa, and all but one of these by 1980. East Asian journals were only picked up by LISA and LL, the common journal being Journal of Library and Information Science from Taiwan, although BS started to cover this from 1980 under its Chinese title Tushuguan-xue yu zixun kexue.

Table 6

1979 journals picked up by 1980 analysed by geographic area

	BS	LISA	LL	RZ
Africa	0	7	0	0
East Asia	0	4	1	0
Indian sub-continent	2	4	3	1
Latin America	1	2	0	0
Middle East	1	2	0	0
	4	19	4	1

Table 7

1979 journals picked up by 1981 analysed by geographic area

	BS	LISA	LL	RZ
Africa	0	8	0	0
East Asia	0	6	1	0
Indian sub-continent	2	7	3	1
Latin America	1	6	2	3
Middle East	1	2	0	0
	4	29	6	4

The international COMLA Newsletter has been excluded from these figures.

Languages

Looking at the distribution of the different languages of publication, Fig.4 shows that journals in English or English plus another language dominate the scene, which is perhaps not too surprising as many developing countries were once British colonies. The 2 Hebrew journals from Israel were picked up the quickest by the end of 1979 while journals purely in Spanish or Chinese were not covered until 1981. Most journals in English or English plus another language were picked up by the end of 1980.

Table 8

1979 journals picked up by 1980 analysed by language

	BS	LISA	LL	RZ
English	2	14	2	1
English plus another lang.	1	2	2	0
Spanish	0	0	0	0
Portuguese	0	2	0	0
Hebrew	1	1	0	0
Arabic	0	1	0	0
Chinese	0	0	0	0
	4	20	4	1

Table 9

1979 journals picked up by 1981 analysed by language

	BS	LISA	LL	RZ
English	2	19	2	1
English plus another lang.	1	4	2	1
Spanish	0	2	0	2
Portuguese	0	2	2	0
Hebrew	1	1	0	0
Arabic	0	1	0	0
Chinese	0	1	0	0
	4	30	6	4

Original abstracts

It is interesting to note that all journals covered by the end of 1980 were either in English or included English language abstracts with the original text. A total of 15 out of the 33 journals dated 1979 and picked up by 1981 in the secondary services were published with original abstracts; 12 out of these 15 journals were picked up by 1980. However, one should be wary of placing too much emphasis on these figures as it could be that the journals with the original abstracts were also the journals which were published most regularly on time as well.

Authorship

Results so far of the questionnaire sent to editors of the primary journals and from scanning issues in the British Library show that a small percentage of authors were from the industrialised world and only a few reprints were taken from other journals. COMLA Newsletter was the only journal in this survey which relied heavily upon reprints. In other words, the primary journals were, on the whole, dependant upon original material from local and national authors.

Conclusions

The questionnaire also showed that few librarianship journals sent free copies to the secondary services. LISA is fortunate in being able to rely on the British Library but other services may not be so lucky. Obviously sending copies directly is an area that publishers could look into to improve their coverage. It is LISA's editorial policy to abstract and journals which arrive in the office from the publisher or the British Library as long as they contain articles over a page in length. Journals which are purely newsletters are not covered. Problems can arise when journals change their nature, for instance a journal may be rejected for coverage when it first appears as it is only

Conclusions cont.

a newsletter but it gains strength and begins to include articles which should be picked up but are not as the journal is not sent up to the LISA office by the British Library. An example of such a development in contents is College and Research Libraries News.

Much, of course, depends upon the editorial policy of the secondary services. LISA has a policy of including material from the developing countries as between a quarter and a third of its 1800 plus subscribers are from the third world. The other abstracting/indexing services' editorial offices have been contacted with a view to ascertaining their editorial policy, who their subscribers are and how they obtain their journals but replies had not been received at the time of writing. There is no point in sending free copies to the seconday services if their policy is not to cover any journals from the developing countries, however, the fact that they cover some shows that this is not the case.

The subject matter and reliability of production may be criteria for selection of journals for coverage. The journals covered by other services in addition to LISA seem to be those which concentrate more on the general, theoretical aspects of librarianship and information scienc: Ciencia da Informacao; Herald of Library Science; Journal of Library and Information Science; Library Science with a Slant to Documentation; Pakistan Library Bulletin; Revista da Escola de Biblioteconomia da UFMG; and Revista de Biblioteconomia de Brasilia.

To conclude, this should lead us to ask some uncomfortable but interesting questions. The third world can gain invaluable information from the industrialised world's library journals to help in developing its own library services, but who in the industrialised world, except perhaps some researchers, library schools and international organisations, has a need to know about librarianship in the third world? General articles may be of value but what about the provincial subject matter which predominates? If the subscribers to a secondary service are all or nearly all from the industrialised world, having little interest in third world librarianship, is it right that editors should devote space to third world journals rather than to expanding their coverage of the third world's journals? Should not editors of secondary services concentrate on including all the material that their subscribers will find of value and excluding that which is not relevant? In these times of economic restrictions no one can include everything. As already mentioned, LISA has a sizeable proportion of users in the developing countries and so makes an effort to cover their primary journals as part of its editorial policy, but what of Bulletin Signaletique, Library Literature and

Conclusions cont.

Referativnyi Zhurnal? Should they be expected to expand their third world coverage if they don't have many third world users? Not that Library and Information Science Abstracts has any cause for complacency, for there are numerous librarianship journals that it does not cover.

I suggest, ladies and gentlemen, that we should consider very carefully what the market needs and what the market will stand in terms of indexing and abstracting services, that we should consider very carefully what pattern of services would be most economically viable. Perhaps someone could come up with a service specifically for the developing countries?

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APPENDIX A

Journals with no 1979 issues covered by LISA but earlier and later issues picked up

Journal of the Hong Kong Library Association
Library News (Sri Lanka)
Sierra Leone Library Journal
Tok Tok Bilong Haus Buk (Papua New Guinea)
Ugandan Libraries

APPENDIX B

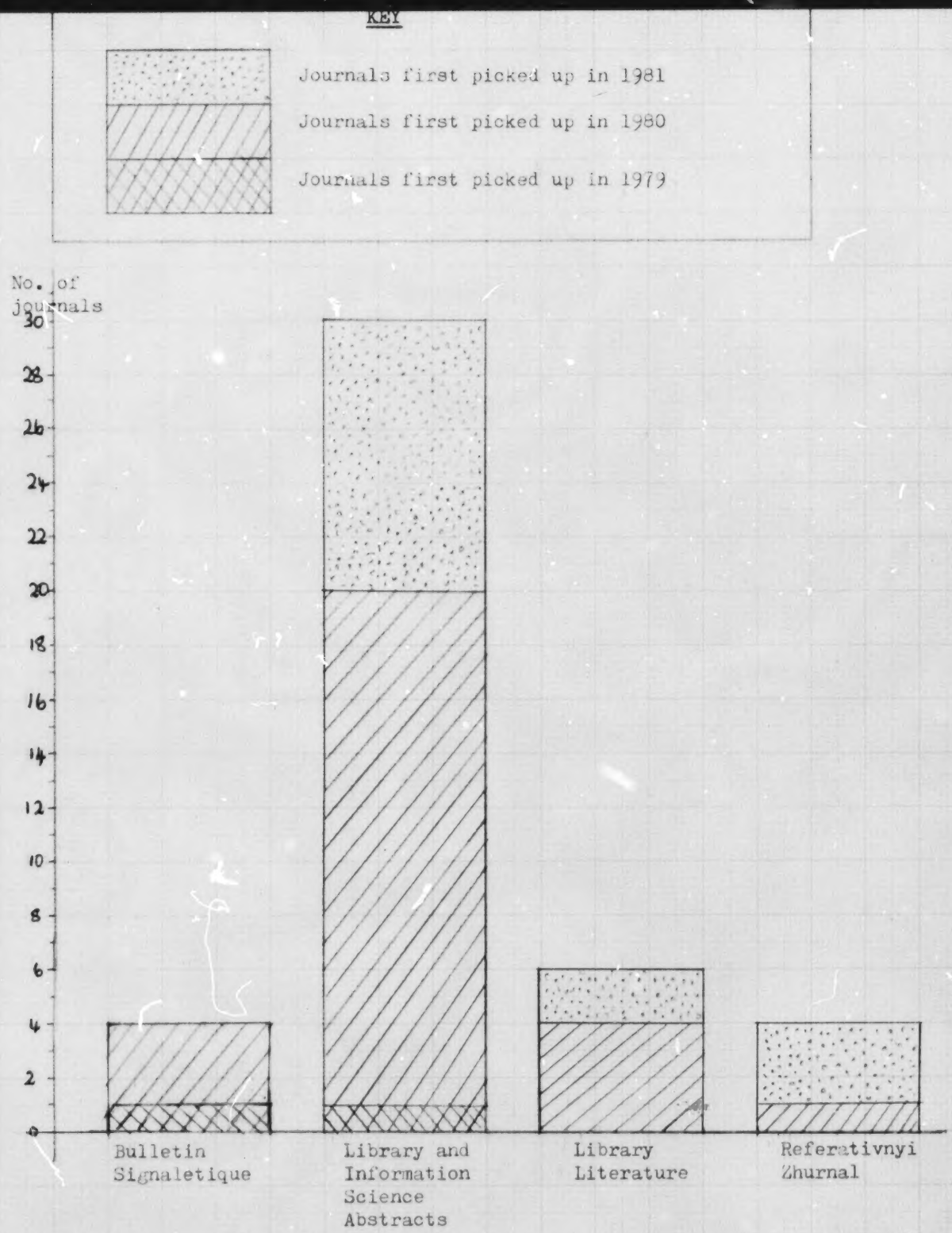
Journals with no issues in the British Library for 1979 onwards

Bangladesh Library Science News Bulletin
Bibliotecas (Cuba)
Bulletin of the Library Association of China (Taiwan)
Bulletin of the Phillipine Library Association
Documentacion Bibliotecologica (Argentina)
Indian Journal of Library Science
Indian Library Movement
Iranian Library Association Bulletin
Journal of Phillipine Librarianship
Library Herald (India)
Library History Review (India)
Majallah Perpustakaan Malaysia
Maktaba (Kenya)
National Central Library Bulletin (Taiwan)
Nigerian Libraries
Revista Chilena de Bibliotecologia y Documentacion (Chile)

APPENDIX C

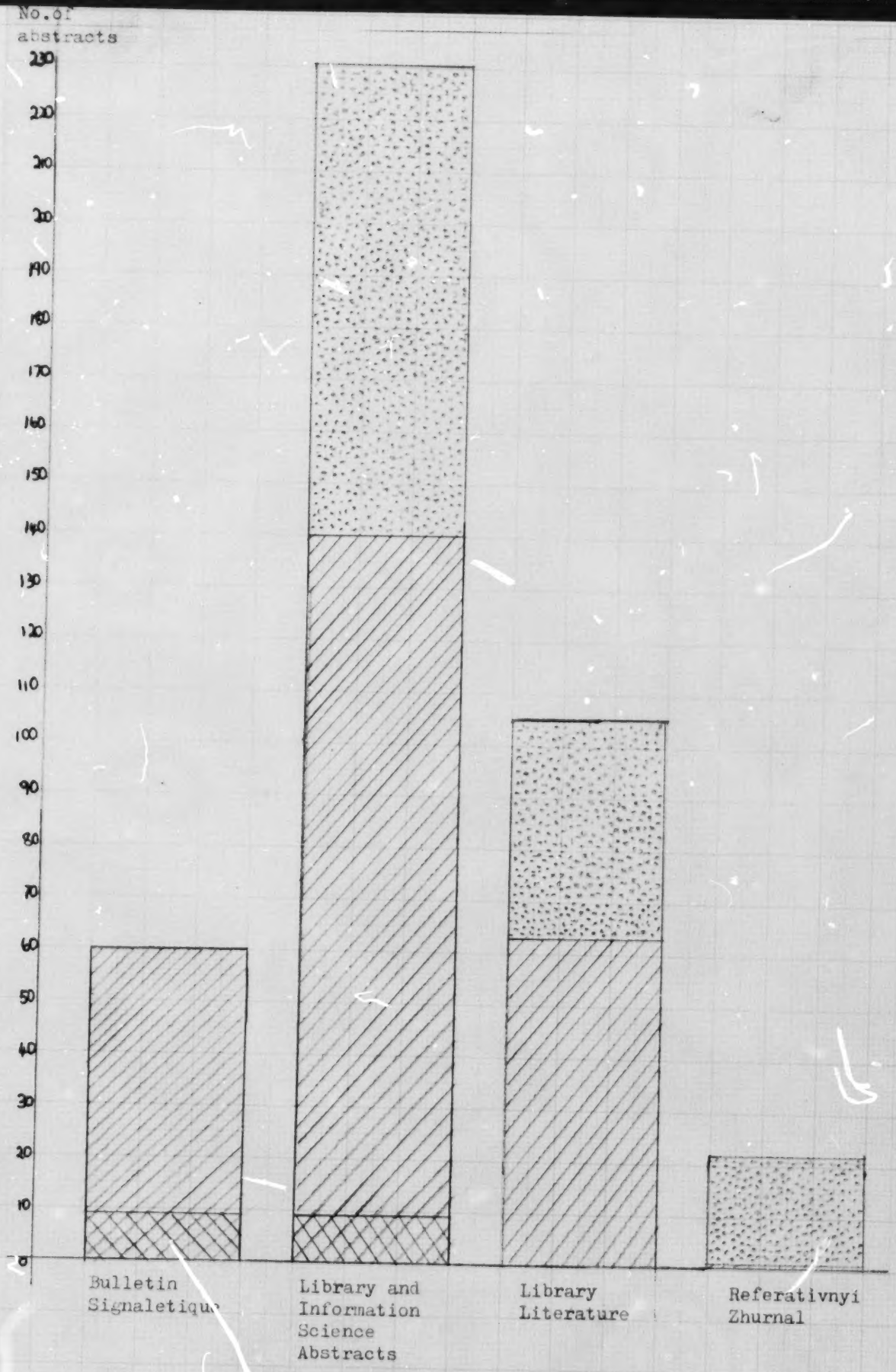
Journals that LISA has recently started to cover

Arab Archives/al-Watna'iq al-Arabiya (Iraq)
Arab Magazine for Information Science (Tunisia)
Cerlal: Noticias sobre el libro (Colombia)
Documentacion Cinterfor (Uruguay)
Indian Archives
Journal of Educational Media Science (Taiwan)
Library and Information Science (People's Republic of China)
Library Research (Korea)
Library Scientist (Nigeria)
Lucknow Librarian (India)
National Library Bulletin (Papua New Guinea)
Revista AIBDA (Costa Rica)
Revista Brasileira de Biblioteconomia e Documentacao
Revista de la Biblioteca Nacional Jose Marti (Cuba)
Zambia Library Association Newsletter
Zimbabwe Librarian



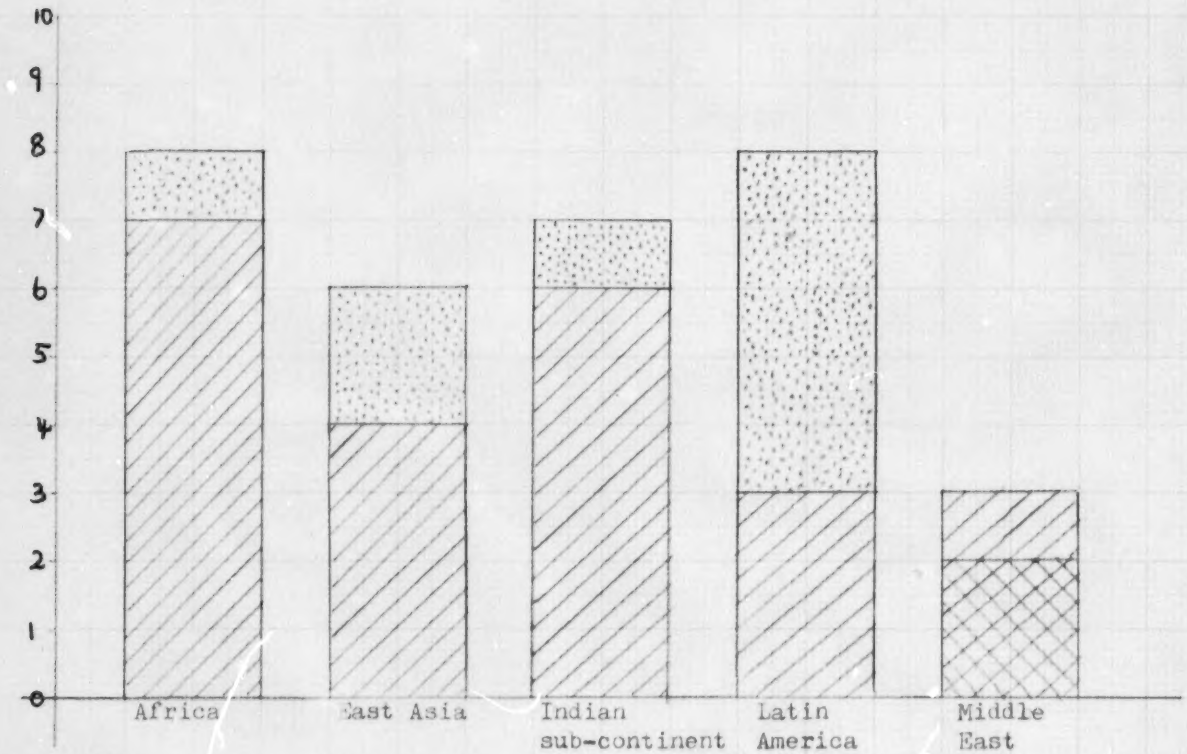
CHRONOLOGICAL COVERAGE OF JOURNAL TITLES DATED 1979

FIG. 1



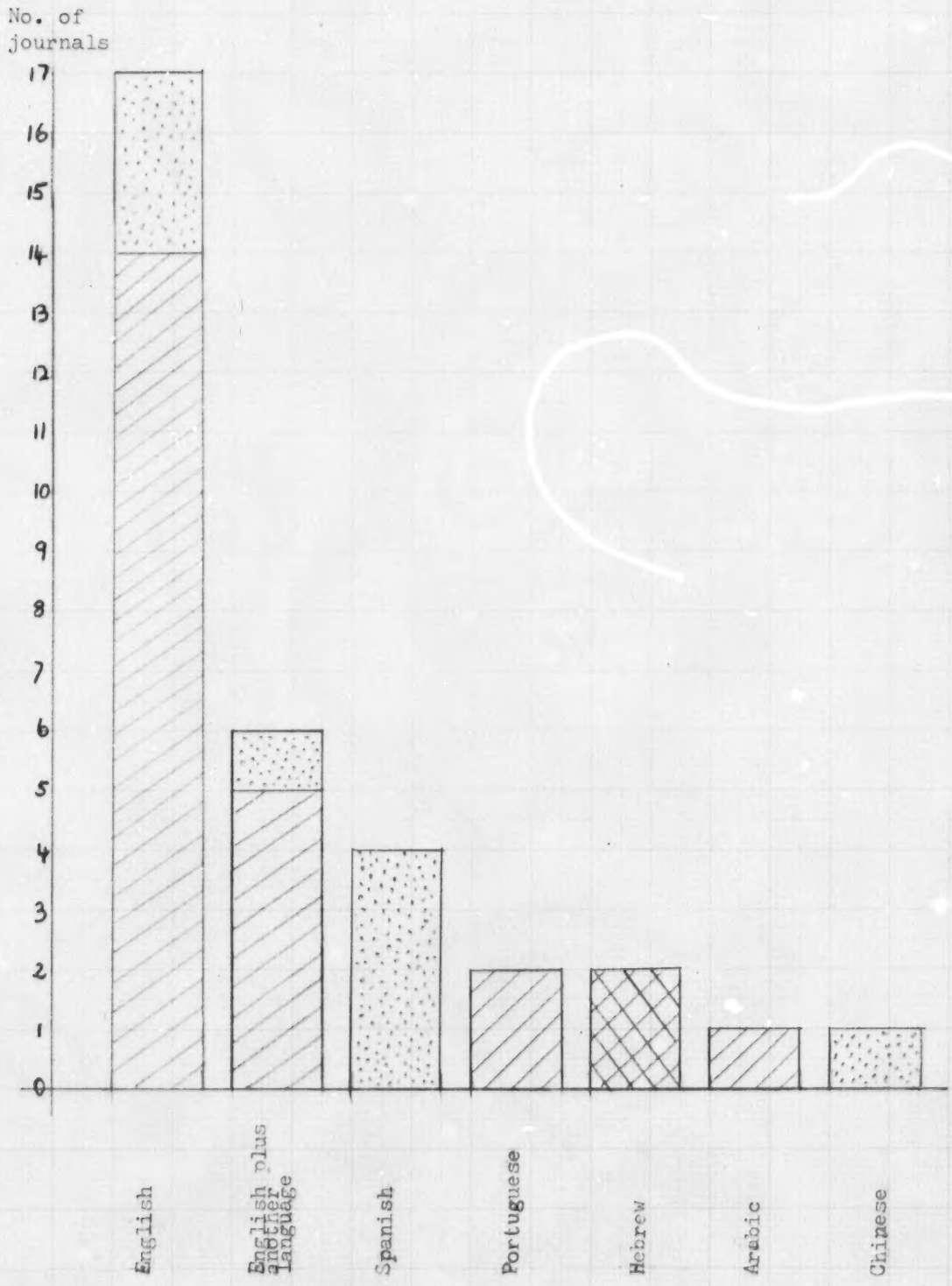
CHRONOLOGICAL COVERAGE OF JOURNAL ARTICLES DATED 1979

FIG. 2



CONSOLIDATED CHRONOLOGICAL COVERAGE BY GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF JOURNAL ISSUES PUBLISHED IN 1979

FIG. 3



CHRONOLOGICAL COVERAGE BY LANGUAGE OF PUBLICATION OF JOURNAL ISSUES PUBLISHED IN 1979

FIG. 4

APPENDIX D

QUESTIONNAIRE

Details of publication

1. How many issues a year do you produce?

2. How many articles over a page in length do you publish in a single issue, on average?

3. Quoting issue and volume numbers, which issues did you publish dated 1979?

4. How many articles over a page in length appeared in these issues?

5. Quoting issue and volume numbers, which issues actually were published in 1979?

6. How many articles over a page in length appeared in these issues?

7. Do you include abstracts with the articles? If yes, in which languages?

8. Do you produce an annual index?

Indexing/Abstracting services

9. Do you send free copies to any indexing/abstracting service? If yes, which?

10. Do you send any paid for copies to an indexing/abstracting service? If yes, which?

11. Do you have an exchange arrangement with any indexing/abstracting service? If yes, which?

Indexing/Abstracting services cont'd

12. Do any other indexing/abstracting services include your journal? If yes, which?

Authorship

13. Are your authors mostly national or foreign? Please underline which percentage is nearest to that of national authors:
10% 25% 50% 75% 90% 100%

14. Do you include articles previously published elsewhere? If yes, where? Are they usually translations?

Subject area

15. Do you specialise in any particular type of librarianship/ information science? If yes, which?

16. Are you the official journal of any library, library association, academic institution or similar body?

Readership

17. Is your readership mainly local, national or international?

18. What is the approximate size of your readership?

Other comments

19. Do you have any other helpful comments that you wish to make?

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THE LIFE, DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF A JOURNAL

by

E. BEJIDE BAMIKOLE

(Prepared as discussion paper for the Round-Table of Editors of Library Journals 48th IFLA Conference August 1982)

Before a new Journal is started, many congent reasons for its existence is normally given. Among such reasons are:

that there are many writings that are not published because no journals on the subject exists or that those existing are over subscribed to;

that many potential writers are therefore not writing because the avenue for publishing their articles are not available;

that the existence of an avenue for publishing will encourage those who would not have bothered to write to do so;

that the new journal will certainly bridge a gap in the communication link between practitioners.

Feasibility studies usually encourage establishing the journal on the assurance that the publication will be read and subscribed to by many and that it will be financially worth while on the long or short run. Even when the possibility of a financial break-even is not predicted, rationalisations are made that the value of the journal in form of a vehicle of communication and as a forum for the

Meeting
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dissemination of ideological policies or academic and professional principles will be more than compensate for the financial investment.

Quite apart from all these positive reasons, there is also the personal ego which the would-be editor or publisher is out to satisfy. Most people often like to be associated with one publication or the other. Hence institutions, especially academic and professional institutions, tend to rate their importance and the level of contribution to the amount and quality of publications by them or their staff or members. This tendency and the believe that writing and publishing determines ones importance has contributed more to the publication exploitation now experienced the world over, than the argument that there is more information to communicate.

One other reason for the 'explosion' is that many people like to talk but few people have the time to listen, hence they write with the hope that there will be time later to read what has been written.

The incidence of the number of journals that have started, particularly in the social sciences, and have either ceased publication altogether after a few issues or have had to go into hibernation for a couple of years before reappearing or merging with another equally unsteady journal has engaged my attention for some time. I always take great delight in reading the announcement of a new journal title with the many promises held out for it to fulfill. I have so often times wondered why many have not learnt from the failures of those before, and steer clear of such mistakes. I have in the process discovered that none of the journals that failed ever had the opportunity to tell

..../3

the story of their failure so that others might learn from it. Once a journal dies, there is no time for a post mortem. Any new journal starting either from the ashes of the deceased does not wish to be associated with the predecessor, and so will not examine the 'corpse'. Even in a case of a resurrection, pious promises of a brighter future prevents any examination of the past failure.

It is the unwillingness to speak about or be associated with journals that failed that has made it difficult to know more about the causes of the failures. Therefore for the causes to be known and documented, an independent survey of all known journals that have failed and those that thrive will have to be conducted.

Because of the very many titles that will be involved in many parts of the world, hence in diverse languages, it will be necessary to limit the survey to librarianship journals. There however must be a common method of conducting the survey so that the conditions investigated would be similar for each journal and from country to country. The mode of investigating the conditions should be similar and standardised. It is therefore recommended that the questionnaire to be used should be such that will produce similar responses from the various journals even though they exist or existed under different conditions.

There are certain factors which may determine the success or otherwise of a journal on which the questionnaires should be based. Some of these are:

THE POLICY AND AIMS:

The policy of the journal may have been based on wrong assumptions. For example, adequate thought might not have been given to the proposal to establish the journal and adequate feasibility studies might not have been undertaken. In most cases, laudable aims are set as goals for the journal. Some may be rather high and unattainable within the constraints of the availalbe facilities. The effect on the editor or contributors is one of unfulfilment, frustration and, finally, despair.

The institution may adopt a policy which chokes the journal and prevents initiative and the introduction of features that could help its growth. The result if usually the demoralisation of the editor, a drastic reduction in the quantity and quality of production and a fall in contribution and circulation.

Standards set for articles or of production may be such that few could meet. Therefore the 'catchment' area for contributors will be limited to the very best writers who are invariably wanted by other journals. One of the principal aims of encouraging budding writers would thus have been defeated and the principle of 'learn to write by writing' cannot be practised when standards are too high.

EDITORIAL TEAM AND MANAGEMENT:

The choice of an Editor is one of the most important success

determining factors. Also, the relationship between the Editor and the Editorial Board, the Associate Editors or the Editorial Advisory Committee is very vital to success. The freer the Editor is from dictation and other restrictive actions of others in the team, the better he is to learn and adapt to circumstances.

Training in the art of editing is very important in that it gives the personnel the necessary knowledge of the job. He is better able to evaluate the services being given and can adapt and relate his practice to changing circumstances. When practice becomes rigid, stereotyped and uninnovative, decay and deterioration sets in. The end is failure and collapse. Training and personal interest should however go together. An untrained or inexperienced person who is interested has more possibility of sucdess than a trained editor who lacks interest and feels that he has been forced to take the job by circumstances, such as, his need to earn additional income.

Incentives in kind and cash are also of important considerations to make an editor more devoted.

A number of journals resort to having a high powered Editorial Board who controls every action of the Editor and leaving him no power to function as one but rather as its secretary. This type of Board or Committee stifles the initiative of a would-be active editor and kills incentives. On the other hand, some journals adopt a long list of internationally well known names in the profession as members of an Editorial Committee merely to adorn the pages, without defining what role each of these persons will be required to play or

really finding out if each of them will be interested in being associated in any way with the journal. If such professional persons have been selected purely on the basis of what contribution they can make or what status they would lend in their respective disciplines, and their interest secured, the advantage could be tremendous, because each of the luminaries would take an interest to advise from time to time and ensure that they each play the role expected of them and ensure that a journal with which they are associated does not die off.

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT:

Publishing a journal ought to be considered as a business enterprise which has to be planned and nurtured. No amount of managerial expertise or experience alone will make a business enterprise poorly financed grow and prosper at the expected rate. So also with a journal. Finance, that is, an initial outlay enough to start the journal must be available plus adequate arrangement to provide for its growth for an initial period of 3 years must be made. This will enable the first few issues to be published and distributed while subscriptions are saved up to the time when it can provide enough for the daily operations. In fact, most professional journals are distributed free or at reduced costs to members and the source of income from subscriptions thus reduced. A definite source of finance encourages the editor to press on with the work and the issues are not allowed to lapse or be delayed.

Managing what funds are provided or generated is also an

important contributory factory to success or failure. Care must be taken not to lavish funds on unessential features, such as, using the best quality of paper or over producing copies. The right size of issues should be decided to minimise keeping large back issues. The aim should be to produce a befitting, appealing and functional journal. A dull presentation, with unappealing articles etc. not only discourages subscribers, but contributers and advertisers as well. However, the quality of production should not be lavishly and unnecessarily set too high. Proper management of finance include the ability to generate funds from advertisements, proper accounting and control of waste.

The above discussion is to show the topics on which facts should be obtained in any effort to determine why many professional journals in librarianship fail. Any questionnaire designed should be such to provide some insight into the practices of journals with regards to the above points. Until a survey is done through questionnaire of the type suggested, it will remain only a conjecture that the plight of journals and their likelihood to succeed depend on a particular circumstance or set of circumstances.

The time at my disposal has not permitted a design of the questionnaire but the attached is suggested for modification and refinement. It is hoped that the subject will generate enough interest for such a survey to be supported with adequate facilities.

DRAFT QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of journal

Publisher

Address

Journal aimed at a defined readership Yes No

Journal aimed at a general readership Yes No

Organ of Professional Organisation Yes No

Name of Organisation

Privately owned/published Yes No

Is journal published for the Association by an independent publisher

Subjects covered.....

Do you limit area of coverage/Subject Circulation Yes No

Is subject coverage well defined?

Are articles taken from all over the world?

What is language of journal?

What is the 'lingua franca' of country (yes)

of publication.....

Is catchment area (for articles) well defined?

Is journal available on subscription?

Is journal free to members?

Is journal at reduced price to members?

Is journal self financing?

Are contributors paid?

Is the Editor (Editorial staff) remunerated Yes No

By payment of: Salary.....Yes....No.....Honorarium ...Yes...No....
Expenses ...Yes.....No..

Editorial Boasd is Advisory Executive

Are contributions assessed? Yes No

Who determines what to publish or reject? Editor Editorial Board

Other (specify)

On what basis?.....

How frequently are Editors elected?.....

Is editor subject to internal politics? Yes No

Who controls the finance? Editor Board Other specify

Any appealing special features.....

Stock of back issues Many adequate too few

What is the state of development of printing in your country?

High Moderate Low

How was decision taken on publishing the journal? After feasibility report At a general meeting/conference Other specify.....

What is the circulation figure?

at start.....at highest.....at death.....

Is journal advertised? Yes No Where.....

Do you take exchange advertisement? Yes No

Is the cost of production higher than returns?.....

at start .....at peak.....at death.....

Is journal abstracted? Yes No

In which abstracting service.....